

Message Text

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ACTION SNM-02

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R 160808Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 822
DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENCY
US CUSTOMS DEPT

UNCLAS BUCHAREST 7422

FOR S/NM
DEA FOR TRI
CUSTOMS FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: SNAR
SUBJ: NARCOTICS TRAINING FACILITIES

REF: STATE 284346

1. FOLLOWING IS RESULT OF MEETINGS BETWEEN EMBASSY NARCOTICS
COORDINATOR AND CUSTOMS OFFICIALS ON REF TOPIC. THE SHORT
ROMANIAN ANSWER TO PARA FIVE (G) REF QUESTION IS "NO." ROMANIANS
INITIALLY SEEMED TO BE MERY INTRIGUED BY IDEA OF HAVING USG
HELP SET UP NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT TRAINING PROGRAM. THEY TOOK
NOTE ALL QUESTIONS IN REF AND PROMISED POSITIVE ANSWER. IN
SUBSEQUENT MEETING WITH CUSTOMS DIRECTOR TINCU, HOWEVER, HE
SAID THAT HE BELIEVES THAT HAVING 14 OF HIS OFFICERS TRAINED
IN THE U S HAS VISIBLY IMPROVED HIS NARCOTICS CAPABILITY, END
THAT SIMILAR TRAINING FOR EIGHT OR TEN MORE WOULD FULFILL HIS
NARCOTICS TRAINING NEEDS. ON OTHER HAND, HE DOES NOT HAVE
SUFFICIENT MANPOWER TO CONTINUOUSLY PROVIDE STUDENTS TO A PERMANENT
NARCOTICS TRAINING FACILITY IN ROMANIA. HE ADDS THAT, BECAUSE
OF LIMITED EXPERIENCE IN THIS FIELD, AND ALSO BECAUSE FACILITIES
WOULD BE VERY RESTRICTED, A ROMANIAN TRAINING PROGRAM WOULD NOT
OFFER SAME QUALITY INSTRUCTION WHICH U S HAS MADE AVAILABLE
UNTIL NOW. HE CONCLUDED THAT LIMITED NARCOTICS TRAINING REQUIREMENTS
DID NOT JUSTIFY ESTABLISHMENT PROPOSED PROGRAM IN ROMANIA.

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2. THERE ARE THREE TYPES OF NARCOTICS TRAINING PROGRAMS IN ROMANIA. AT NATIONAL LEVEL, BOTH POLICE AND CUSTOMS INCLUDE SUBJECT DURING MORE GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS. THERE IS ALSO BRIEF COURSE RUN TOGETHR BY POLICE AND CUSTOMS EMPHASIZING COORDINATION NECESSARY BETWEEN THE TWO SERVICES IN SEIZURES AND FOLLOW-UP INVESTIGATIONS. CUSTOMS NATIONAL LEVEL PROGRAM LASTS ABOUT ONE MONTH AND INCLUDES ONE WEEK OF NARCOTICS INSTRUCTION. THE 46 LOCAL CUSTOMS OFFICES CONDUCT TRAINING ALL YEAR EXCEPT FOR SUMMER MONTHS. ABOUT TWENTY PERCENT (THIS MAY BE SOMETHING OF EXAGGERATION) OF TRAINING TIME IS DEVOTED TO NARCOTICS. USE IS MADE OF U S TRAINED OFFICERS FOR BOTH LOCAL AND NATIONAL NARCOTICS TRAINING. THE POLICE OCCASIONALLY LENDS INSTRUCTORS. ACCORDING TO CUSTOMS DIRECTOR, IT HAS BEEN NECESSARY TO TELL U S TRAINED CUSTOMS OFFICERS NOT TO EMBARASS POLICE INSTRUCTORS BY THEIR MORE UP TO DATE KNOWLEDGE. CUSTOMS HAS NO TRAINING FACILITY OF ITS OWN. ARRANGEMENTS ARE AD HOC. HOWEVER, POLICE DOES HAVE ITS OWN SCHOOL. ALL NON-ROMANIAN NARCOTICS TRAINING HAS BEEN PROVIDED BY SSG. CUSTOMS DIRECTOR ESTIMATES THAT JUMP IN SEIZURES BETWEEN 1975 AND 1976 (FROM 30 TO 70 KILOS OF HASHISH) IS ENTIRELY DUE TO USG TRAINING. HE ADDS THAT HE HAS ACKNOWLEDGED THIS PUBLICLY AT ALL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES HE HAS ATTENDED.

3. EMBASSY HAS NOT IN PAST BEEN IN TOUCH WITH MILITIA ON SUBJECT OF NARCOTICS. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT AN APPROACH TO MILITIA WITHIN CONTEXT OF REF TRAINING WOULD BE APPROPRIATE. ALTHOUGH MILITIA IS MUCH LARGER THAN CUSTOMS AND WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE GREATER BUDGETARY FLEXIBILITY TO HANDLE TYPE OF PROGRAM ENVISAGED BY REF, IT ALSO PROBABLY HAS LESS INTEREST IN NARCOTICS. ROMANIAN OFFICIALS HAVE ALWAYS MAINTAINED THAT ROMANIA ITSELF HAS NO DRUG PROBLEM. THE CONCERN IS FOR TRANSITING SHIPMENTS WHICH FALL UNDER JURISDICTION OF CUSTOMS. FURTHER, WE CAN DISCUSS COMPLEX TOPIC SUCH AS REF EASILY WITH CUSTOMS IN VIEW OF ITS FAMILIARITY WITH U S PROCEDURES AND POLICY; BUT IT IS NOT PROPER TOPIC WITH WHICH TO BEGIN RELATIONSHIP WITH MILITIA. HOWEVER, IF DEA VISITS BUCHAREST ANY TIME IN FUTURE, REF PROGRAM COULD WELL BE MENTIONED DURING COURTESY CALL ON MILITIA TO ELECIT ANY EXPRESSION OF INTEREST.

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